AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 21, line 21 to Page 22, line 11, is amended as follows:

The low-molecular-weight substance elimination step (A_{rmv}) can be carried out by centrifugation method, electrophoresis method or ultrafiltration method, for instance. The ultrafiltration method is preferably used, however, since it is superior in productivity. The ultrafiltration method is not particularly restricted but may be any of the methods by using an ultrafiltration apparatus comprising an ultrafiltration membrane for removing a low-molecular-weight substance. Thus, it includes, among others, the centrifugal ultrafiltration method and the circulating ultrafiltration method. The ultrafiltration membrane and the ultrafiltration membrane-containing ultrafiltration apparatus are adequately selected according to the molecular weights and types of the low-molecular-weight substances to be removed, the aqueous medium species, the molecular weight and type of the fluoropolymers, and other factors. Suited for use as the ultrafiltration membrane-containing ultrafiltration apparatus are commercially available ones. For the laboratory use, there may be mentioned Centriprep centrifugal filter units (product of Amicon) and Millitan (product of Millipore), for instance. It is also possible, in the ultrafiltration step, to concentrate the fluoropolymer obtained. The fluoropolymer solid composition obtained by concentration or evaporating to dryness the fluoropolymer dispersion purified by using the above-mentioned ultrafiltration method is preferred in view of its low impurity content.

Page 49, line 29 to Page 50, line 2, is amended as follows:

(3) The reaction mixture obtained as described above under (2) was treated for hydrolysis by adding 1 N hydrochloric acid, and the fluoropolymer was purified and

concentrated by centrifugal ultrafiltration using Centriprep YM-10 centrifugal filter units (product of Amicon) with simultaneous removal of low-molecular-weight substances. The fluoropolymer dispersion obtained had a fluoropolymer concentration of 32% by mass and contained a fluoropolymer having stable $-SO_3K$ groups with a small proportion of $-SO_3Na$ groups.

Page 53, line 30 to Page 54, line 2 is amended as follows:

(3) Acid hydrolysis was effected by adding 1 N hydrochloric acid to the reaction mixture obtained in the above step (2), and the fluoropolymer was purified and concentrated and low-molecular-weight substances were removed simultaneously by centrifugal ultrafiltration using Centriprep YM-10 centrifugal filter units (product of Amicon). The fluoropolymer dispersion obtained had a fluoropolymer concentration of 43% by mass and contained the corresponding fluoropolymer having stable $-SO_3K$ groups.